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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/854,624

05/15/2001

Yoko Kobayashi

1614.1166

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7590

07/22/2004

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EXAMINER

MUHEBBULLAH, SAJEDA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

C9/854,624

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, YOKO

Examiner

Sajeda Muhebbullah

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment B 4/13/04.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment B, filed 4/13/2004.
2. Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 15 are independent claims. In the Amendment B, claims 1, 10, and 15 were amended. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gavron et al. ("Gavron", How to use Microsoft Windows NT4 Workstation, ISBN# 1-56276-445-4).

As per claim 1, Gavron teaches a computer-readable recording medium recorded with a data item list display program for causing a computer to function as list display means for displaying a plurality of data items in different display forms in a list, the display forms corresponding to respective attributes of the data items and defining respective ways of displaying the list of data items (Gavron, Page 35, Section 2 and associated figure).

In the right portion of the window, the data items are displayed with an icon corresponding to the form of the data item thereby also defining the way in which the data items are displayed.

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Independent claims 10 and 15 are similar in scope to claim 1, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 8, Gavron teaches the recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the program causes said list display means to function as column header display means for displaying a column header corresponding to a display form of a selected one of the data items displayed in the list (Gavron, Page 35, Section 2 and associated figure). In the figure, the right side of the screen shows a column header of Name, indicating that along with the data type depicted by the icon, the name is also listed.

Dependent claim 14 is similar in scope to claim 8, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 9, Gavron teaches the recording medium as claimed in claim 8, wherein the program causes said list display means to function as column display width change means for changing a column display width of one of the data items which one corresponds to a displayed column header by changing a column display width of the displayed column header (Gavron, Page 35, figure in middle of page with callouts).

The figure in the middle of the page depicts columns that are adapted to the size of the information in each column.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gavron.

As per claims 2 and 3, which are dependent on claim 1, Gavron does not teach the recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the program causes said list display means to include a table of correspondence between the attributes and the display forms, and to determine the display forms of the data items displayed in the list by referring to the table by the respective attributes of the data items.

However, OFFICIAL NOTICE is given that using a table of correspondence to determine attributes or display stored information about a data item, by means of the table storing the information directly or indirectly, is a widely accepted practice in the art, more commonly noted as a lookup table or LUT.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to use a lookup table to determine the icon to display based on the data type because it provides an efficient and reliable way to effectively display such information.

7. Claims 4-7, 11-13, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gavron in view of Sullivan ("Sullivan", US# 5,737,557).

As per claim 4, Gavron does not teach the recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the program causes said list display means to add icons of different sizes corresponding to the display forms to the data items in displaying the data items.

However, Sullivan teaches varying the dimensions of the icons being displayed (Sullivan, col. 6, lines 10-13). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to use the variable dimensioned icons of Sullivan in the data item list invention of Gavron because it would increase the visual appeal of icons representative of

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relatively more significant items, as well as to draw the user's attention to certain items (Sullivan, col. 6, lines 13-16).

Dependent claim 11 is similar in scope to claim 4, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 4, Gavron further teaches the recording medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein the program causes said list display means to function as alignment and display means for aligning and displaying each of the data items of the different display forms (Microsoft, Figures 1-2, above).

Dependent claim 12 is similar in scope to claim 5, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 5, Gavron further teaches the recording medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein the program causes said alignment and display means to function as area management means for managing an area in which data items are displayed and an area required to display the data items of the respective display forms (Microsoft, Figure 1, above).

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 5, Gavron further teaches the recording medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein the program causes said list display means to function as sorting and display means for sorting and displaying the data items of the respective display forms (Microsoft, Figures 1-2, above). The data items in Figures 1 and 2 above are sorted alphabetically by data item name.

Dependent claim 13 is similar in scope to claim 7, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

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As per claim 16, which is dependent on claim 1, Sullivan further teaches the recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the program causes said list display means to change types of fonts based on the display forms of the data items in displaying the data items (Sullivan, col. 6, lines 1-8).

Dependent claim 17 is similar in scope to claim 16, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments in the Amendment B have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the following:

(a) Gavron fails to teach that a plurality of data items are displayed in different display forms in a list, the display forms corresponding to respective attributes of the data items and defining respective ways of displaying the list of data items.

(b) Applicant request supporting evidence for the use of Official Notice in the rejection of claims 2-3.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Per (a), Gavron teaches the limitation as indicated on page 35, Section 2 and the associated figure. In the right portion of the window, the plurality of data items are displayed with a different icon corresponding to the form of the data item thereby also defining the way in which the data items are displayed.

Per (b), Koda et al. (US 5,749,083) teaches a table of correspondence to determine attributes or display stored information about a data item (col.11, lines 7-18).

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Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Inquiries

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sajeda Muhebbullah whose telephone number is (703) 305-0720. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm (EST). The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:


(703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

(703) 746-9915 [For status inquiries, Draft Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Sajeda Muhebbullah
Patent Examiner
June 29, 2004


SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER